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THE ANN ARBOR ART SCHOOL.



LIFE in a university town has many attractions and some drawbacks. The charming hum of industry and tone of coal dust, the soiled linen and grimy hands which assure us of aggressive progressiveness here in Chicago are unknown at the seat of the University of Michigan. Law and Latin, physics and philosophy are at least clean. But they are also conservative. All that Chicago is Ann Arbor is not. A well regulated city government and clean back yards so little cared for here are much in evidence there, and so is slowness of development. Ann Arbor is as proud of that which she already has as Chicago is of what she is going to get.

Things are done in a large way by a State government ; but legislation is of the people, and, bless them, the people want practical things. Cultivation is not practical enough, so they mistakenly think. The school of architecture was allowed to die, though that of engineering flourishes. A collection of pictures at the University (a bequest) contains a mass of copies, bad ones, and is not always respectfully spoken of. But I find upon examination that lost in this rubbish are some forty odd excellent originals, good enough for the best art museums. There is the prospect of a donation — only donations for the ornamentals — for building a suitable gallery for this collection. An art club has for some years kept a little school in operation and it was upon this basis that I was invited to build better, if possible.

The studios have been moved from the business street to the campus front and the attention of the university circle gained. This is already an important development.

The majority of the pupils are doing serious drawing from casts and life and they show an admirable determination to really cultivate themselves. A sufficient proportion of the workers are males, but it is difficult to secure constant attendance of university students because of the pressure of their regular studies.

The Ann Arbor Art School is affiliated with the Art Institute. The drawings already submitted have commanded very respectful attention at the headquarters establishment. Whatever else this work may accomplish the heaven is (being) spread in the mass.

JAMES WILLIAM PATTISON.